

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 DODE-00 /051 W  
-----128255 021029Z /21

R 020654Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9224  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0498

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF VM HK AS  
SUBJECT: BOAT PEOPLE

1. AN OFFICER OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN HANOI TOLD US  
APRIL 30 OF TWO "BOAT PEOPLE" REFUGEE INCIDENTS FROM  
THE SRV VIEWPOINT.
2. THE FIRST CONCERNED A BOAT WHICH HAD BEEN HIJACKED  
FAR FROM THE SEA ON A RIVER IN TAY NINH PROVINCE OF  
SOUTH VIET NAM. THE BOAT AND THOSE ABOARD HAD MADE IT  
ALL THE WAY TO HONG KONG IN JANUARY, AND IN APRIL THE  
SRV FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROACHED THE BRITISH EMBASSY TO  
ASK THAT THE BOAT BE RETURNED. THE BRITISH WERE  
CURRENTLY TRYING TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.
3. THE SECOND INCIDENT INVOLVED FOUR PEOPLE WHO HAD  
BEEN UNWILLING PARTICIPANTS IN THE HIJACKING OF A SHIP  
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WHICH HAD THEN BEEN DIVERTED TO AUSTRALIA. THE FOUR  
WISHED TO RETURN TO VIET NAM, AND THE AUSTRALIAN  
GOVERNMENT HAD ARRANGED FOR THEM TO GO BACK. UPON  
THEIR ARRIVAL IN VIET NAM, THE AUSTRALIANS HAD  
REQUESTED AND RECEIVED FROM THE SRV A WRITTEN ACKNOW-  
LEDGMENT THAT THEY HAD BEEN HANDED OVER TO VIETNAMESE  
CONTROL. WHEN THE AUSTRALIANS ATTEMPTED TO FOLLOW UP

A SHORT WHILE LATER TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FOUR  
RETURNEES WERE BEING PROPERLY TREATED, THE SRV  
AUTHORITIES DENIED ALL KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR RETURN OR  
EVEN OF THEIR EXISTENCE.

4. OUR SOURCE DOES NOT KNOW IF THIS RESPONSE IS THE  
RESULT OF A TOTAL LACK OF COORDINATION WITHIN THE SRV  
ADMINISTRATION OR WHETHER IT IS SOME SORT OF "GRAND  
HOTEL" EFFORT TO TURN THE RETURNEES INTO NON-PEOPLE.  
ROBERTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SEA RESCUES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978VIENTI00498  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780186-0676  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197805100/aaaadhli.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 2b2f4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION HA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2510841  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BOAT PEOPLE  
**TAGS:** SREF, VM, HK, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2b2f4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014